(d) whether any scheme has been drawn up in this regard for Bihar for being implemented during the next three years and if so; what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Department of Non-conventional Energy sources has taken up a programme of initial electrification of remote villages, mainly through the provision of solar streetlights and community lights as well as solar powered televisions. Such systems have been installed in about 800 villages in different parts of the country. Also, the Department is implementing Urja Gram projects (Energy self-sufficient village systems) utilising different non-conventional energy sources to meet the energy requirement in rural areas, 37 Urja Gram Projects have so far been completed and 37 projects are in various stages of implementation throughout the country.

(c) and (d) Based on the information available in the publication of Central Electricity Authority "Bulletin on power supply in the country" there is deficit on availability of power for rural areas of Bihar. The potential for utilising non-conventional sources of energy including rural electrification is high but the extent to which they are utilised depends on the availability of financial resources and local organizations for implementation of various programmes. The non-conventional energy development programme is a country-wide plan programme and projects are taken up in all states including Bihar on a year-to-year basis depending on availability of resources.

Water in LPG Cylinder

80. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received complaints about the content of water in LPG cylinders;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) what action has been taken in the matter against the defaulters;

(d) whether there is any proposal for the use of pilferage proof seals on the LPG cylinders and if so; what are the details in this regard; and

(e) by when such a system is proposed to be introduced throughout the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BHAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) While no distributor has been caught in the act of filling water in LPG cylinders, some instances of the presence of water in LPG cylinders have come to the notice of the oil marketing companies.

(c) Any complaint regarding underweight cylinders or about the presence of water in filled cylinders is duly investigated and, if found true, suitable compensation is given to the consumers, in addition to action against distributors under the Marketing Discipline Guidelines.

(d) and (e) The Oil Industry is stepping up the use of pilfer-proof aluminium/PVC seals on the cylinders, in a phased manner but no definite time limit has been set for this.

Price of Natural Gas

81. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the basis for recent fixation of the natural gas price whether coal equivalent and furnace oil cost has been taken to be equivalent to natural gas cost;

(b) what are the international standards for the fixation of natural gas prices and why India differs from them, and in what respect;

(c) whether any special consideration is made for the supply of gas to backward areas and also to Government undertakings like Electricity Boards etc.;

(d) what was the profit of ONGC during the last three years and what is the anticipation in the current year on the basis of new price structure; and

(e) whether recent price fixation is opposed by individuals, institutions or Government; if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) The price of natural gas has been fixed in such a manner as to encourage the use of gas, bring down flaring and at the same time provide a reasonable return on gas exploration, production and transportation.

(b) There are no fixed international standards for fixation of natural gas price and these vary from country to country.

(c) Concessions have been provided for the consumers in the North Eastern region and to fall back users and those getting gas from fields under development.

(d) The details are as follows:

Year	Profit in Rs./Cr.
1983-84	804.66
1984-85	882.41
1985-86	1302.21

ONGC has been accounting the sale price of gas on realised basis. It is, therefore, too early to anticipate any changes in profit due to the new price structure in the current year.

(e) Some consumers have represented against the prices fixed and have requested for lower prices.

LPG Connections to the Consumers of Fazilka

82. SHRI M. KADHARSHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of LPG connections allotted for the LPG consumers at Fazilka, the number of connections actually released so far, and the number of applicants awaiting release of such connections and by when the shortfall in releasing these connections is likely to be met;

(b) whether it is a fact that M/s. Hindustan Petroleum Corporation have stopped allotment of new LPG connections in Fazilka in Punjab, if so, what are the reasons therefor and by when Government propose to start releasing of new LPG connections in Fazilka;

(c) the average demand of LPG refills in Fazilka during the last six months, the number of LPG refills actually released to the consumers during the same period;

(d) what is the present supply position of the refills in Fazilka; and